



Quota International of Aruba begins the celebration of their 20th Anniversary

On Thursday morning, the festivities room of the Divi Phoenix Resort was the site for the launching of an informative film sponsored by the Quota Club of Aruba titled “E Bida di un Sordo” (The Life of a Deaf Person.) The making of the film, and its distribution is only the first of a number of events planned by the Quota International members as part of their 20th anniversary celebration, culminating on May 29. Evelen Wever-Croes, head of the committee coordinating the anniversary events, was joined by Alexia Semeleer, President of Quota International, and Lenny Theysen, who was charged with the production of the film.

They explained that they wanted to do something very special for this landmark occasion, and Quota International has always worked closely with FEPO (Foundation for the Hearing Impaired) and the White-Yellow Cross in promoting the cause of care for one’s hearing, and for the hearing impaired. The film’s subject matter focuses on the lives of three Arubans in particular who live productive lives despite their hearing impairment, but also their frustrations and difficulties. They explain how they manage to work and live normally as a librarian, a physical trainer, and within the tourist industry, even though some treat them harshly because of their hearing difficulties.

A complete explanation of the social system that exists to assist the hearing impaired, including a glimpse of the work of Skol Scucha Nos, (School Listen to Us) which works with the severally hearing impaired children is part of the film. Statements from experts such as Dr. Steve Cabenda on the importance of early detection and diagnoses of hearing problems are also included, and a number of those appearing in the film attended the screening. Additionally, they address the constant abuse of one’s hearing with loud music, such as will take place during upcoming carnival events, and recommend earplugs for everyone, particularly the young.

The film was made with the cooperation of Cherryldine Muller of ATV and Pro Video, and will be screened on all of Aruba’s TV channels. It is the hope of the members of the Quota International that the film will have a great impact on the public, and make them more aware and sympathetic to those living with impaired hearing. “E Bida di un Sordo” is available on DVD for any company or organization that wishes to screen it for their employees or members, and copies can be obtained by calling Lenny Theysen at 593-2121 or 585-8909.